

going to be in the category of companies eligible for the \$10 billion Federal subsidy.

Down here is United Health Group, where R. Channing Wheeler is getting \$9.5 million. I bet he was embarrassed going to the country club with his friends and only making \$9.5 million.

Incidentally, United Health Group—do I remember that name from the AARP newsletter? Yes. It turns out they are in business together. It turns out that AARP, which is for this bill, is in business with United Health Group, a managed care company. Frankly, as I understand it, 60 percent of the revenues of AARP come through their insurance and advertising. Is it any wonder that AARP is pushing for this bill, when seniors are opposed to it?

I want to close because I see other colleagues in the Chamber. I say to seniors across America: If you have received your AARP solicitation and sent back your membership card, please call AARP at 1-800-424-3410. Tell them to stand up for seniors for a change, to reject this bad bill that won't result in lower prescription drug costs and will privatize Medicare.

Tell them you are opposed to a slush fund that is being created for HMOS. Tell them you think it is scandalous that we give \$6 billion to Golden Rule for health savings accounts. And tell them it is time for your organization, AARP, to stand up for seniors and stand up for Medicare instead of caving in to the special interest groups and supporting this legislation.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

REMEMBERING PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, we discussed this morning that we will have a moment of silence at 12:30. I request we have a moment of silence.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will observe a moment of silence.

(Moment of Silence.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, this moment of silence gives us an opportunity to reflect in a way that expresses our deep respect and also an opportunity to contemplate how we can capture what happened in the past and those lessons of the past and project them to the future but also in terms of carrying out our responsibilities in the Senate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, for those of us who are old enough to remember President Kennedy, November 22 is always tinged with a sense of sadness and loss. Today, on this 40th anniversary of President Kennedy's death, we are especially aware of that loss.

One floor above us, in a corridor leading to the House side of the Capitol, there is a wonderful exhibit by a longtime Senate photographer named Ar-

thur Scott—"Scotty." He was an official Senate photographer from 1955 until his death in 1976.

One of my favorite of his photos up on the third floor shows a very young-looking Senator John Kennedy playing catcher in a baseball game with other Senators in 1958. Scoop Jackson is at bat and Mike Mansfield in umpiring. John Kennedy looks more like a staffer than a Senator.

About 12 feet down that same hall hangs another photograph. This one was taken on January 20, 1961. It shows a smiling, older-looking JFK walking into the Rotunda shortly before he was sworn in as President. Next to that is another photograph, also taken in the Rotunda. It shows a grim-faced Everett Dirksen with his arm around the shoulders of Hubert Humphrey as the two men walk past President Kennedy's casket in November 1963.

Only 5 years passed between that first photograph and the last. Only 1,000 days elapsed between John Kennedy's inauguration and his death. Not long at all. Yet, 40 years after that terrible day in Dallas, President Kennedy remains vivid in our memories and he continues to inspire even people who were not yet born when he died.

There are many reasons for this, I believe.

John Kennedy believed that politics can be a noble profession. Many of us in this Senate are here, in part, because we were inspired by his belief and his example. That is certainly true of me. That belief was also shared by his brother Robert, and it continues to be demonstrated today by his last surviving brother, our friend and colleague, the senior Senator from Massachusetts.

Another reason that President Kennedy remains such a force in our national life is that he inspired us to be our best possible selves.

He led by appealing to our better instincts, not our base fears. He showed us that we need not fear great challenges, as when he said America chose to go to the moon not because it was easy, but because it was difficult. He understood that there is almost nothing Americans cannot achieve when we are united and willing to sacrifice and work together toward a common goal.

John Kennedy was, indelibly, the grandson of immigrants. He was deeply grateful for the freedoms and opportunities that America affords. But he also understood that, with rights come responsibilities. As he said so often, "To those whom much is given, much is required."

President Kennedy understood that the most powerful weapon America possesses is the power to do good in this world. And he transformed that belief into the Peace Corps.

President Kennedy understood that we are all connected to each other, as he said to the Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev when the two leaders began negotiations on the first limited nuclear test ban treaty following the

near-cataclysm of the Cuban missile crisis. "In the final analysis, we all share the same planet, we all breathe the same air, we all cherish our children's future."

Today, thousands of people are expected to visit President Kennedy's grave in Arlington National Cemetery. They will file past that eternal flame. But we don't need to go to Arlington to pay our respects to John Fitzgerald Kennedy. That eternal flame also shines in the hearts of every American and every person on Earth who recalls what President Kennedy taught us in his too-brief life and who tries to live those lessons today.

Finally, Mr. President, I want to say a word about my friend, Senator KENNEDY. I know this is a sad day for him.

In the drawer of every desk on this floor are the names of the Senators who occupied these desks before us. I suspect we have all had the experience of seeing those names and thinking what an awesome responsibility it is to follow in such footsteps. In the drawer of Senator KENNEDY's desks are the names of two of his brothers, John and Robert. I am grateful to my friend that he chose to follow in his brothers' footsteps, despite the pain that public service has brought him and his family. It is an honor to work with him. America is better for the Kennedy family's service and sacrifices.

I yield the floor.

MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG, IMPROVEMENT, AND MODERNIZATION ACT OF 2003—CONFERENCE REPORT—Continued

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the next Democratic speaker following Senator REED of Rhode Island be Senator HARKIN.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Under the previous order, the Senator from Maine is recognized. Does the manager of the bill seek recognition?

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for 4 minutes and that Senator SNOWE and Senator CORNYN not lose their right to speak.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I want to speak a lot longer to respond to what the Senator from Illinois has said because there is so much that can be so successfully rebutted. I will speak to two or three very obvious statements that are wrong.

The first one is that the Senator from Illinois has never run into a senior who endorsed HMOs. Forty percent of the seniors in Miami are voluntarily in Medicare+Choice. That is an HMO. And 6 percent of the seniors in his own large city of Chicago are members of HMOs. They are there because they want to be there. They can get in or, if they leave the area in which they live to go someplace elsewhere and they